

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 080951Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2509
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USNATO BRUSSELS 553

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CSCE, BU, UR
SUBJECT: ANOTHER INSTALLMENT BASKET III COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

REF: A) SOFIA 0433; B) SOFIA 0454; C) SOFIA 0466

1. NARODNA MLADZHZH MARCH 6 CARRIES ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF ITS CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT BULGARIAN (AND GENERALLY EASTERN) BASKET III CSCE PERFORMANCE IS BETTER THAN THAT OF THE WEST. THIS ONE DEALS WITH VISA-FREE REGIME (EASIER ACCESS EASTWARD THAN WESTWARD), SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES, LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE VISITED
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BULGARIA IN RECENT YEARS (ALLEGEDLY BETWEEN 2,000 AND 2,500 JOURNALISTS AND 50 TO 70 TV CREWS) AND RELATIVE PERFORMANCE ON MOTION PICTURE FILMS. ONLY THE LAST SUBJECT IS NEW, AND WE REPORT IT EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS TO RELATE MORE TO SOVIET THAN TO BULGARIAN FILMS.

2. PAPER SAYS THAT AT SOVIET FILM WEEK IN SAN FRANCISCO,

THE SF CHRONICLE WROTE ABOUT FILM "HUNDRED DAYS AFTER CHILDHOOD" THAT IT HOPED IT WOULD BE MORE GENERALLY SHOWN, SO THAT "ITS WARMTH, ITS HUMOR AND DEPTH, ITS UNIVERSALITY OF FEELINGS WILL BRING UP A TRANQUILLITY FOR WHICH WE YEARN AFTER ALL THE VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM ON THE PRESENT AMERICAN SCREEN" (RETRANSLATION FROM BULGARIAN). YET THAT FILM, SAYS NARODNA MLADZHZH, NEVER REAPPEARED ON THE AMERICAN SCENE.

3. THIS IS NOT AN ISOLATED CASE, SAYS THE PAPER. PRIZE-WINNING SOCIALIST FILMS, WINNERS AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS, ARE NEGLECTED ON THE CAPITALIST FILM MARKET. EVEN WHEN AS A GESTURE WESTERN FILM COMPANIES BUY A FILM FROM A SOCIALIST COUNTRY, THEY DO NOT ADVERTISE IT AND RESTRICT SHOWINGS TO SMALL MOVIE THEATERS. WESTERN COUNTRIES ALSO DO NOT PUBLISH OR DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE ON SOCIALIST FILM HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT. "THIS SHOWS THAT CAPITALIST CENSORSHIP IS AT WORK... IT IS NOT LACK OF INTEREST BUT FEAR OF THE TRUTH, OF (SOCIALIST) IDEAS, THAT PARALYZES THE ACTIONS OF WESTERN FIRMS THAT IMPORT FILMS FROM OUR COUNTRIES."
HERZ

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